

**In Montana, from 2000-2005**

- 94% of fires were less than 100 acres (thus successfully contained in initial attack)
- 1% of all fires exceeded 5,000 acres
- In 2005, 0.14% of the fires (25) exceeded 40,000
- Montana is similar to national statistics: **3% of wildfires account for 90% of the acres burned.**

Source: <http://dnrc.mt.gov/firereports/>

**Firefighting costs have increased:**

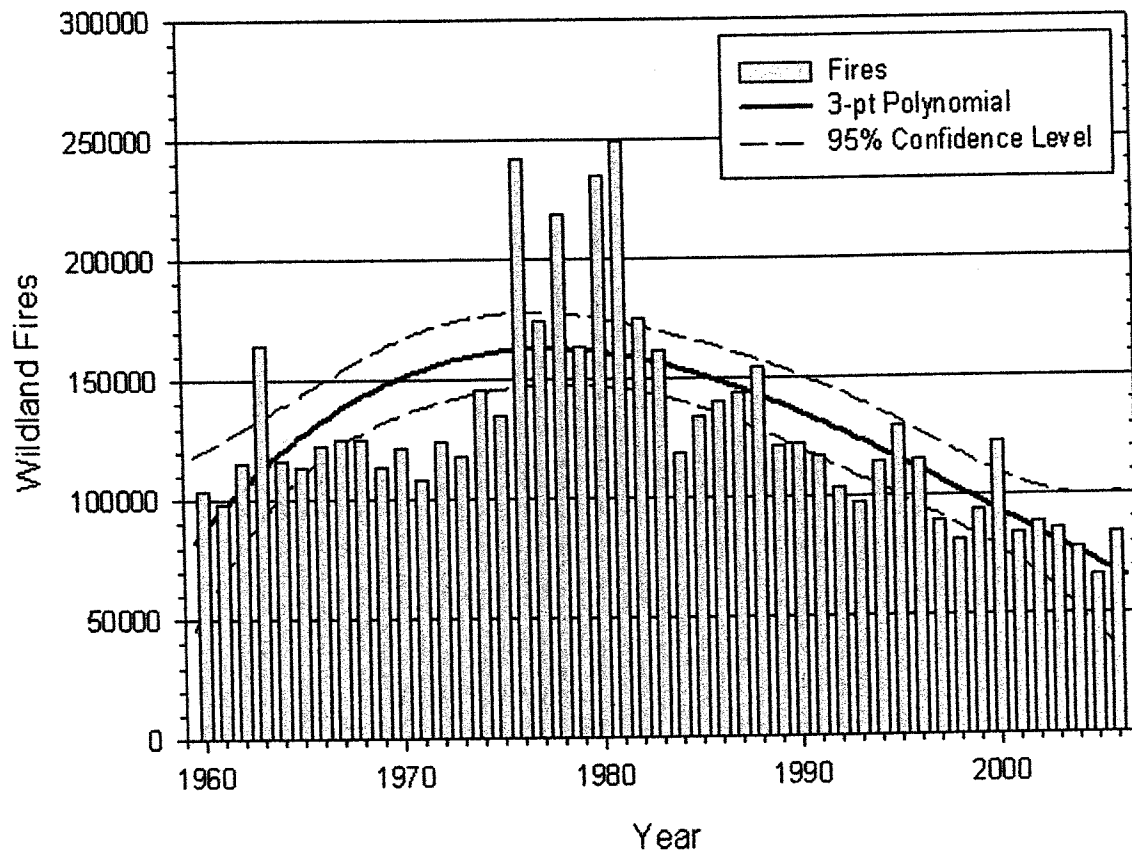
- Climate has been more conducive to wildfires: most wildland fire scientists conclude that the larger fires we have been seeing are the result of extreme weather more than anything else.
- Public lands forests have high fuel loadings. When ignited, these lands' fires then spill over onto private lands and communities.

Costs: Direct attack readiness and large project fires.

- Large project fires must be contained--either on Family Forest lands or city limits—which is more expensive?
- Family forest lands managed for fuel reduction provide fuel breaks and access for fire fighting, which benefits the initial attack.
- Montana Forest Owners Assoc. survey (Rep. Erickson has copies) indicates that family forest landowners who manage their lands have invested thousands of \$\$\$\$ of their own money for fuel reduction treatments.

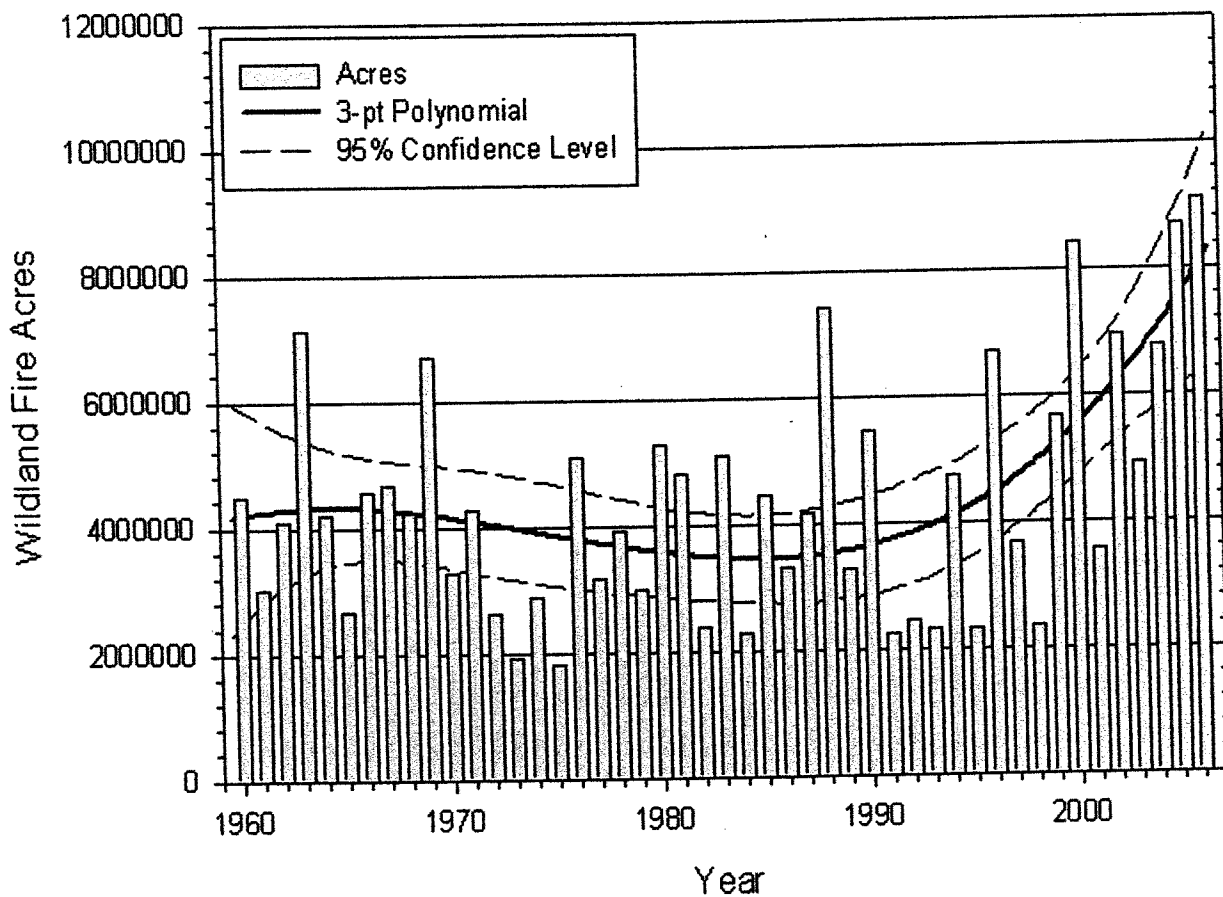
Montana Forest Owners Assoc. opposes HB 61

### U.S. Wildland Fires: 1960-2006\*



\*2006 wildfire activity includes preliminary data through September 30th.

### U.S. Wildland Fire Acres: 1960-2006\*



Source: National Interagency Fire Center.

**AGENDA**  
Montana Forest Owners Association  
**LEGISLATIVE LISTENING SESSION**  
9:00 – 3:00  
January 11, 2007  
Jorgenson's, Helena

**FAMILY FOREST OWNERSHIP & WILDFIRE:  
ASSET OR LIABILITY?**

- 9:00 – 9:15     Registration
- 9:15 – 9:30     Welcome and Introduction: Debra Foley, Pres. MFOA
- 9:30 – 9:45     Speaker: Bob Harrington, DNRC -- **Does Family Forest Management Help Reduce the Risk of Wildland Fire?**
- 9:45 – 10:00    Q & A
- 10:00 – 11:30   Breakout discussion groups:  
                  **Catastrophic Wildfire Suppression: Who Benefits?**  
                  Discussion points:
- HB 61
  - Are family forestland owners the only ones affected by wildfires?
  - Who pays for wildfire suppression -- who benefits?
- 11:30 – 12:00   Report from discussion groups for unified MFOA position statement
- 12:00 – 1:00    LUNCH  
                  Speaker: Peter Kolb, MSU Extension Forestry – **Results of the International Fire Congress – Future Predictions and Effects of Forest Management**
- 1:00 – 2:30     Breakout discussion groups:  
                  **Catastrophic Wildfire Suppression: Why Manage the Forests?**  
                  Discussion points:
- What are landowners' (public and private lands) responsibilities?
  - What tools are there already in place for managing forests? (Community Wildfire Protection Plans, infrastructure, etc.)
  - What incentives are there (public and private lands)?
- 2:30 – 3:00     Report from discussion groups for unified MFOA position statement
- 3:00             Adjourn